

Serial No. 10/826,646

Art Unit: 1751

In the Claims:

Please enter the following amended claims in the application. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

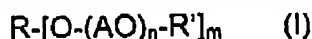
Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-35 (Canceled)

Claim 36 (Currently amended): A process for treating textile fibers comprising:

(1) contacting the fibers with an aqueous composition comprising:

(a) a compound of formula:



wherein R is an at least monofunctional, saturated or unsaturated, alkyl group having from at least 2 up to 36 carbon atoms, m is a number from 1 to 16, and n is a number from 1 to 500, with the proviso that the product of n and m has a value of at least 1, AO independently represents C₂H₄O-, C₃H₆O- or C₄H₈O- and R', independently of each other, represents a hydrogen atom or a sulfur-containing group selected from the group consisting of OC-CH₂-S-SO₃M and SO₃M, M is a cation having at least one charge, and, wherein, at least one R' is the sulfur-containing group[.]; and

(b) at least one member selected from the group consisting of textile fiber cleaning surfactants and textile fiber softening agents; and

(2) drying the textile fibers;

whereby, pilling of the treated fibers is improved.

Claim 37 (Currently amended): The process of claim 36, wherein, the aqueous composition contains a compound of formula:

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wherein R'', independently of each other, represent a hydrogen atom or a sulfur-containing group selected from the group consisting of OC-CH₂-S-SO₃M and SO₃M, and, wherein, at least one R'' is a sulfur-containing group, AO, independently of each other, represents C₂H₄O-, C₃H₆O- or C₄H₈O-, the indices x, y and z, independently of one another, are 0 or their sum has a value of from 1 to 500, M is a cation having at least one charge, and wherein if x, y or z is zero, its corresponding substituent R'' is a hydrogen atom, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 38 (Previously presented): The process of claim 36, wherein, in formula (I) the product of n and m is a number from 10 to 100.

Claim 39 (Previously presented): The process of claim 36, wherein, in formula (I) the product of n and m is a number from 30 to 80.

Claim 40 (Withdrawn from consideration): The process of claim 36, wherein, AO is exclusively C₂H₄O.

Claim 41 (Previously presented): The process of claim 36, wherein, AO is exclusively C₃H₆O.

Claim 42 (Previously presented): The process of claim 36 wherein the compound of

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formula (I) is present in the composition in an amount of from about 0.1 to 90% by weight, based on the weight of the composition.

Claim 43 (Previously presented): The process of claim 36 wherein the composition has a pH of from about 4 to 10.5, at a temperature of about 21°C.

Claim 44 (Previously presented): The process of claim 36 wherein the composition has a pH of from about 5 to 9, at a temperature of about 21°C.

Claim 45 (Previously presented): The process of claim 36 wherein the compound of formula (I) is present in the composition in an amount of from about 25 to 45% by weight, based on the weight of the composition.

Claim 46 (Withdrawn from consideration): The process of claim 37, wherein, in formula (II) the sum of $x + y + z$ is a number of from 10 to 100.

Claim 47 (Withdrawn from consideration): The process of claim 37, wherein, the sum of $x + y + z$ is a number of from 30 to 80.

Claim 48 (Withdrawn from consideration): The process of claim 37, wherein, AO is exclusively C_2H_4O .

Claim 49 (Previously presented): The process of claim 37, wherein, AO is exclusively C_3H_6O .

Claim 50 (Previously presented): The process of claim 37 wherein the compound of formula (II) is present in the composition in an amount of from about 0.1 to 90% by weight, based on the weight of the composition.

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Claim 51 (Previously presented): The process of claim 37 wherein the composition has a pH of from about 4 to 10.5, at a temperature of about 21°C.

Claim 52 (Previously presented): The process of claim 37 wherein the composition has a pH of from about 5 to 9, at a temperature of about 21°C.

Claim 53 (Previously presented): The process of claim 37 wherein the compound of formula (II) is present in the composition in an amount of from about 25 to 45% by weight, based on the weight of the composition.

Claim 54 (Previously presented): The process of claim 36 wherein the textile fibers comprise at least one member selected from the group consisting of wool fibers and cotton fibers.

Claim 55 (Previously presented): The process of claim 37 wherein the textile fibers comprise at least one member selected from the group consisting of wool fibers and cotton fibers.